

VITAL STATISTICS - 1958.

(Preliminary)

South Australia

Bulletin No. 4 of 1959.

The following preliminary particulars for 1958 are subject to slight revision. Details for 1957 are shown in parentheses.

Births Registered. The number of births registered was 20,047 (19,536). The last 9 years have been successive records in numbers, increasing from 16,042 in 1949. The highest birth rate per 1,000 of population in recent years was 25.23 in 1947, and has now fallen to 22.35 (22.35), remaining at this rate for each of the last three years.

Actual Births. A period of 42 days after birth is permitted for registration and the number of births registered in a year therefore differs from the number of births actually occurring during the year. The numbers of registered and actual births during recent years have been:- 1952 - 17,884 and 17,904, 1953 - 18,156 and 18,184, 1954 - 18,227 and 18,359, 1955 - 18,494 and 18,382, 1956 - 18,964 and 19,353, 1957 - 19,536 and 19,697. The number of actual births for 1958 is not yet available.

Sexes of Births. The number of boys compared with 100 girls born does not vary greatly and in recent years has been: 1953 - 106.11, 1954 - 105.19, 1955 - 106.18, 1956 - 104.88, 1957 - 105.47 and 1958 - 103.19. The 1958 rate is unusually low, being the lowest recorded since 1936, when the masculinity rate was 102.43.

Adoptions. 584 (475) children were legally adopted during the year.

Legitimations numbered 49 (36).

Deaths Registered. 7,743 (7,576) deaths were registered during 1958, the rate being 8.63 (8.67). This is a new record, the previous highest number was 7,593 in 1956. The numbers dying from the various causes are not yet available for 1958 and hence comparisons cannot be made.

Infantile Mortality. Deaths of children under 1 year were 449 (403). The infantile death rate, or the number of deaths of children under 1 year per 1,000 births during the year of calculation was 22.39 (20.63). The 1956 rate of 19.88 was the lowest recorded for this State and is one of the lowest in the world. The rate has shown a remarkable decrease. Eighty years ago it was 150, sixty years ago it was 110 and thirty-five years ago it was 60.

There were 142 (121) deaths of children under 1 day, 137 (147) of children from 1 day to 1 month, and 170 (135) of those over 1 month but under 1 year. Compared with earlier years there has been a distinct decrease in the death rate of children under 1 month but a far greater decrease in respect to children from 1 month and under 1 year, although there was a slight increase in the latter group for 1957 and again during 1958.

Deaths of infants from certain causes for 1958 (1957) have been:- Diarrhoea 35 (15), Congenital Malformations 85 (92), Prematurity 74 (76), Injury at birth 50 (51), Other diseases peculiar to early infancy 83 (82), Cerebro-spinal Meningitis 0 (1), Meningitis 5 (8), Whooping cough 1 (0), Pneumonia 48 (38), Hernia and Intestinal obstruction 3 (4), External causes 18 (9), and all other causes 47 (27).

Still Births. These are not included in either births or deaths and they number 240 (297).

Marriages. The number of marriages celebrated was 6,505 (6,581) and the rate per 1,000 of population was 7.25 (7.53). The record number of marriages was 8,129 with a rate of 13.34 in 1942 and the lowest in recent years was 5,321 with a rate of 8.48 in 1945. Marriages in the Registration Office totalled 735 (747).

SUMMARY RETURN. The following return shows the number of births, deaths and marriages, the rate per 1,000 of mean population, the number of infantile deaths and the rate per 1,000 births from 1920 to 1958.

PERIOD	BIRTHS REGISTERED		MARRIAGES		DEATHS REGISTERED			
					Total		Infants	
	No.	Rate (a)	No.	Rate (a)	No.	Rate (a)	No.	Rate (b)
Mean								
1920-24	11,857	23.43	4,326	8.55	4,901	9.68	693	58.45
1925-29	11,301	20.16	4,225	7.54	5,034	8.98	526	46.54
1930-34	8,989	15.54	3,660	6.33	5,001	8.65	342	38.05
1935-39	9,039	15.32	5,305	8.99	5,430	9.20	297	32.85
1940-44	11,743	19.30	6,843	11.25	6,235	10.25	406	34.57
1945-49	15,615	24.02	6,328	9.73	6,369	9.80	427	27.35
1950-54	17,807	23.62	6,362	8.44	7,023	9.31	404	22.69
Year								
1954	18,227	22.89	6,190	7.77	7,179	9.01	388	21.29
1955	18,494	22.55	6,226	7.59	7,536	9.19	431	23.30
1956	18,964	22.35	6,277	7.39	7,593	8.95	377	19.88
1957	19,536	22.35	6,581	7.53	7,576	8.67	403	20.63
1958	20,047	22.35	6,505	7.25	7,743	8.63	449	22.39

(a) Per 1,000 of Mean Population

(b) Per 1,000 Live Births.

A. W. BOWDEN,

Deputy Commonwealth Statistician
& Government Statist.

Bureau of Census & Statistics,
68 Grenfell St.,
ADELAIDE.
15th April, 1959